The Government is appreciative of the suggestions made for using cost-effective technology, developing farmer-scientist cooperation, and making massive application of modern technology among the farming communities for accelerating agricultural production. All out efforts are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in these directions.

*247. [*Transferred to the 17th March*, 1988].

Providing Treatment Facilities in Private Hospitals to ESI Covered Employees in Kerala

*248. SHRI T. K. C. VADUTHALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delay in the reimbursement of the cost of medicines purchased from outside by the employees covered by the E.S.I. Scheme in Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the existing arrangements, the employees who meet with accidents are treated in Government hospitals only;

(c) if so, whether, in view of the delay caused by the non-availability of proper medical facilities in Government hospitals, Government propose to permit such employees to take treatment in the nearest private hospital in emergent cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The State Government of Kerala, who are responsible for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme in the State, have reported that there has been a delay in reimbursing to the employees, covered under the E.S.I. Scheme, the cost of medicines purchased from outside.

(b) and (c) The insured persons are normally required to take medical treatment in E.S.I. Hospital or Government Hospital. However, in extreme emergency cases, they are allowed to take treatment in private institutions and there is no delay in extending medical facilities in emergent cases.

Measures to improve the Fishing Industry in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*249. DR. G. VIJAY MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what measures Government propose to take to improve the fishing industry in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): The Government have approved a number of schemes during Seventh Five Year Plan for development of fisheries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Important among them are supply of mechanised boats and fishing gear at subsidised prices, establishment of ice and cold storage plants, fish processing and storage facilities, landing and berthing facilities, training of fishermen etc. The approved outlay for fisheries during Seventh Plan is Rs. 405 lakhs.

*250. [*Transferred to the 16th March*, 1988].

Offer of Steel Know-how by the USSR

*251. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USSR has recently offered the latest steel know-how to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The cooperation between USSR and India for transfer of know-how in the steel sector is an on going process. However, an Inter-Governmental agreement has also been entered into between USSR and India in November,